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NEW FACULTY OF TRANSPORT SCIENCES  
AT DRESDEN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

With the beginning of the winter semester 1950-51, a new Faculty of Transport Sciences was established at the Dresden Institute of Technology. This new faculty, the first to be established at an institute of technology, emphasizes the great economic and technical significance of transportation within the framework of political economy and affirms the right of transportation to take its place alongside the other scientific subjects at the institutes of technology.

The faculty is designated "Transport Sciences" rather than "Transport Science" because it includes a great number of subjects, such as sociology, economics, law, the physical sciences, geography, and construction and operation of the various transport media. The aim is to produce a new type of transportation expert who can take an executive post in any sphere of the transportation industry, with the exception of the purely technical fields covering the construction of traffic routes and carriers. Until now there has been no special college-level training in Germany for executive positions in transportation. For the most part, lawyers, economists, and construction and mechanical engineers who had specialized in transportation were those who applied themselves to the scientific handling of transportation problems. Often their original field of study influenced their attitude toward the transportation economy and its policies.

The transport plans of the German Democratic Republic are on the way to overcoming the confusion of the past. From experience, it may be concluded that these tasks cannot be handled by specialists in economics, law, or engineering, but that a new type of transportation expert must be produced.

Because of the variety and volume of the technical problems in the transportation industry, the college-trained transportation expert will have to acquire a good knowledge of the physical sciences, including a command of the basic mathematics necessary for the engineer, and also construction, mechanical, and electrical engineering. The new transportation expert does not need to know how to build a vehicle or a transportation system. but he must know enough about them to be able to evaluate them from the economic and technical viewpoint.

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However, one-sided training in the physical sciences and technology is not sufficient for the transportation expert. He also needs a business education and a general knowledge of law and planned economy from the political-economic viewpoint. Furthermore, special attention must be given to the sociological aspects of transportation.

A complete course of study has been worked out to meet these requirements, including only general survey lectures in the technical fields and balancing the technical subjects against other subjects to prevent producing specialized industrial engineers. The students are to receive as broad a survey as possible of sociological and economic developments. The eight-semester course will include lectures in sociology, law, economics, transportation, geography, mathematics, natural sciences, engineering, and transportation technology. Students must also serve a 6-month apprenticeship, preferably in the transportation industry, either before starting the course or at some time during it.

The new transportation experts will be called transportation engineers. They will be given the degree of Graduate Engineer upon completion of their final examinations, and will be able to work for the advanced degree of Doctor of Engineering.

It should be mentioned that the training of mechanical engineers for vehicle construction will, of course, continue.

Obviously, only an institute of technology is able to train transportation experts as described above. Nowhere else can the special basic technical subjects be taught. Some of the necessary sociological and economic courses are already being given at the Dresden Institute of Technology, and others can easily be added.

The following chairs are planned for instructors in the new field: transport science and planning, technology of transport media, transportation mechanics, transportation policies, and geography. These chairs in the new faculty will also be at the disposal of the other faculties of the Institute of Technology.

A new building will be erected at the Dresden Institute of Technology to house the new transportation faculty, whose graduates will be the proponents of the new political and political-economic ideology, as applied to the field of transportation.

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